

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1059

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James Cole Overholt for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is James Cole Overholt, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in each of his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, raised in Newport, Mr. Overholt attended Newport Grammar School and graduated from Cocke County High School; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer of the importance of education, he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree from East Tennessee State University and completed his Ph.D. at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, for ten extraordinary years, James Overholt served with acumen and alacrity as the Director of Adult Education at the Children's Museum in Oak Ridge, where he earned the respect of his peers, superiors, and students alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overholt devoted twenty-four years to enlightening young minds in the areas of History, Government, and Appalachian Studies and providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students in Cocke, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties high schools; and

WHEREAS, an innovative and inspiring educator, James Overholt assigned his Appalachian Studies students with the challenging task of explaining their family histories in the form of a poem; he later assembled their work into two volumes, preserving the invaluable knowledge for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overholt was also responsible for editing and publishing two groundbreaking books: a pictorial history of Anderson County and a compilation of essays entitled, *These Are Our Voices*, which was drafted by people who experienced World War II and the making of the atomic bomb in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, he adapted the highly-acclaimed, classic novel, *Tall Woman*, by Wilma Dykeman to the stage in a play by the same name; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, James Overholt is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Jill H. Overholt, who renders sterling service as a registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overholt is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend James Cole Overholt for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.